

FILED
Aug 29 10 32 AM '03
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

BY *mgm*

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Re: ATTORNEY RENEWAL FEES

In May of 2001, the district judges of this Court voted to approve a procedure requiring attorneys admitted to practice in this District to submit a renewal fee of \$25.00 every three years in order to retain active membership in this Court. The initial three-year cycle commenced January 1, 2002. The district judges further approved a \$25.00 *pro hac vice* fee for those attorneys who are not admitted to practice in this District, but who have requested and received specific permission of the Court to proceed for that one matter. Local Court Rule AT-1, Admission and Discipline of Attorneys, was subsequently amended in sections (f) (1) and (2) to reflect these requirements.

In February of 2002, the Clerk mailed letters to approximately 15,000 attorneys admitted to practice in the Western District of Texas, informing them of the new requirements and requesting compliance by payment of the renewal fee on or before April 30, 2002. This notice was further posted to this Court's Internet site. In that there were remaining a significant number of attorneys who had failed to pay the renewal fee, the date to do so was extended several times.

In March, 2003, a follow-up letter was mailed by the Clerk to attorneys of record in pending cases in this Court where the attorneys admissions records reflect that they had not yet paid the renewal fee. Then, in July 2003, the Clerk instructed his Divisional Office Managers to make telephonic contact with those remaining attorneys in pending cases where the renewal fee has not been paid.

In that it appears the Clerk has made all reasonable efforts to advise practitioners in this Court of the renewal fee requirements, the time has come to bring the renewal fee payment segment of this initial three-year cycle to final conclusion.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any attorney previously admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas who has failed to pay the \$25.00 renewal fee is deemed no longer admitted to the bar of this Court. If that attorney wishes to continue to practice in this Court, then the full and complete admissions requirements as set forth in Local Court Rule AT-1 must be met. This includes the completion of a new application, the submission of reference letters, and payment of the full admissions fee.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any attorney admitted to the bar of this Court who is currently representing a party in a pending case or proceeding, and who has not thus far submitted payment of the \$25.00 renewal fee as required by local court rule, IS HEREBY REQUIRED to forthwith submit the \$25.00 *pro hac vice* fee if that attorney intends to actively continue representation in the pending matter. Further, if that attorney wishes to practice in this Court in subsequent matters, then the full and complete admissions requirements as set forth in Local Court Rule AT-1 must be met.

SIGNED and **ENTERED** this 29th day of August, 2003.

FOR THE COURT:



WALTER S. SMITH, JR.
Chief Judge